

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced Friday that the House Armed Services Committee authorized \$3 million for research at Applied Research Associates' Research & Testing Center in Pecos.

The project – Thresholds for Neurological Injuries from Repeated Blast Exposures - will study troop safety during and after repeated blasts, such as those created by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), grenades, artillery and other explosive devices. The research will help the military devise techniques to lessen the risk of blast injury, including limb exposure and traumatic brain injury.

“The 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District continues to be a military leader in operations and the advancement of technology,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “This research, the only project of its kind currently, will advance our knowledge and help us better protect our troops on and off the battlefield.”

Rodriguez also announced an additional \$12.9 million for two defense-related projects in San Antonio. At Kelly Annex Field, \$7.9 million is authorized to improve and upgrade an Aircraft Maintenance Building where F-16 fighter jets can be properly maintained. Another \$5 million was authorized by the Committee for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Blacklight Night Vision Advanced Technology, manufactured by San Antonio-based Mission Technologies, Inc. This cutting-edge technology will allow military units to deploy miniature drones that can provide immediate, site-specific surveillance information.